

Sky deity

The sky often has important religious significance. Many religions, both polytheistic and monotheistic, have deities associated with the sky.

The daytime sky deities are typically distinct from the nighttime ones. Stith Thompson's *Motif-Index of Folk-Literature* reflects this by separating the category of "Sky-god" (A210) from that of "Star-god" (A250). In mythology, nighttime gods are usually known as night deities and gods of stars simply as star gods. Both of these categories are included here since they relate to the sky. Luminary deities are included as well since the sun and moon are located in the sky. Some religions may also have a deity or personification of the day, distinct from the god of the day lit sky, to complement the deity or personification of the night.

Daytime gods and nighttime gods are frequently deities of an "upper world" or "celestial world" opposed to the earth and a "netherworld" (gods of the underworld are sometimes called "chthonic" deities).^[1] Within Greek mythology, Uranus was the primordial sky god, who was ultimately succeeded by Zeus, who ruled the celestial realm atop Mount Olympus. In contrast to the celestial Olympians was the chthonic deity Hades, who ruled the underworld, and Poseidon, who ruled the sea.^[2]

Any masculine sky god is often also king of the gods, taking the position of patriarch within a pantheon. Such king gods are collectively categorized as "sky father" deities, with a polarity between sky and earth often being expressed by pairing a "sky father" god with an "earth mother" goddess (pairings of a sky *mother* with an earth *father* are less frequent). A main sky goddess is often the queen of the gods and may be an air/sky goddess in her own right, though she usually has other functions as well with "sky" not being her main. In antiquity, several sky goddesses in ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Near East were called Queen of Heaven. Neopagans often apply it with impunity to sky goddesses from other regions who were never associated with the term historically.

Gods may rule the sky as a pair (for example, ancient Semitic supreme god El and the fertility goddess Asherah whom he was most likely paired with).^[3] The following is a list of sky deities in various polytheistic traditions arranged mostly by language family, which is typically a better indicator of relatedness than geography.



Jupiter, the sky father of Roman religion and mythology.

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See also

References

Speakers of Indo-European languages

Proto-Indo-European

- Dyeus, the chief sky father of the Proto-Indo-European religion
- Hausos, dawn goddess and daughter of Dyeus
- Menot, moon god
- Seul, sun goddess

Albanian

- Perendi, god of the light, sky and heaven
- Zojz, god of the sky and lightning

Baltic

- Auštaras, the god of the northeast wind
- Dievs, the god of the day-lit sky and the chief god in Latvian mythology
- Vejopatis, the god of the wind who guards the divine realm of Dausos

Celtic

- Latobius, sky and mountain god equated with the Greek gods Zeus and Ares
- Nuada, god of the sky, wind, and war
- Sulis, goddess of the hot springs at Bath; probably originally the pan-Celtic sun goddess
- Ambisagrus, Cisalpine god of rain, sky and hail equated to the Roman god Jupiter

English

- Nuit, goddess of "Infinite Space and Infinite Stars" in Thelema

Germanic

- Dagr, personification of day
- Eostre, spring and fertility goddess; originally the Germanic dawn goddess
- Mēnô, the moon

- Nótt, personification of night
- Sōwilō, the sun
- Teiwaz, early Germanic sky god, also the god of law, justice, and the thing (assembly)

Greek

- Aether, primeval god of the upper air
- Astraeus, dusk god
- Eos, dawn goddess
- Helios, personification of the sun
- Hemera, primordial goddess of day
- Hera, goddess of the air, marriage, women, women's fertility, childbirth, heirs, kings, and empires
- Iris, goddess of the rainbow and messenger of Hera
- Nephele, cloud nymph in Hera's likeness
- Nyx, primordial goddess of night
- Selene, personification of the moon
- Uranus, primeval god of the sky
- Zeus, king of the gods, ruler of Mount Olympus, god of the sky, weather, law, order, and civilization

Hindu

- Aditi, celestial mother of the gods
- Chandra, god of the moon
- Dyaus Pita, sky father
- Indra, king of the gods, associated with weather
- Ratri, goddess of night
- Saranyu, goddess of clouds
- Surya, god of the sun
- Ushas, goddess of dawn

Iranian

- Asmān, god of sky
- Māh, god of the moon
- Ohrmazd, sky father, the Great God
- Tīštar, god of Sirius star and Rainfall.
- Xwarxšēd, god of the sun
- Uša, goddess of dawn

Roman

- Aurora, dawn goddess
- Caelus, personification of the sky, equivalent to the Greek Uranus

- Juno, goddess of the sky, queen of the gods, and Jupiter's wife, equivalent to the Greek Hera
- Jupiter, king of heaven and god of the sky and weather, equivalent to the Greek Zeus
- Luna, moon goddess
- Nox, Roman version of Nyx, night goddess and mother of Discordia
- Sol, sun god
- Summanus, god of nocturnal thunder/lightning

Slavic

- Dazhbog(or Svarog), god of the Sun
- Khors, god of the Moon
- Stribog, god of the winds, sky, and air
- Perun, god of the thunderstorms, lightning and sky.
- Triglav, a triple god whose three heads represent sky, earth, and underworld
- Zorya, goddess of dawn

Thracian and Phrygian

- Sabazios, sky father

Speakers of Afro-Asiatic languages

Ancient Egyptian

- Amun, god of creation and the wind
- Anhur, originally a foreign war god who became associated with the air god, Shu
- Hathor, originally a sky goddess
- Horus, god of the sun, sky, kings, and war
- Khonsu, moon god
- Mehet-Weret, goddess of the sky
- Nut, goddess of the sky
- Ra, god of the sun
- Shu, god of the air
- Thoth, originally a moon god, later became a writing/knowledge god and the scribe of the other gods

Berber

- Achamán, Guanche creator and sky god
- Achuhucanac, Guanche rain god, associated with the sky god Achamán

Semitic

- Asherah, sky goddess and consort of El; after the rise of Yahweh, she may have become Yahweh's consort before being demonized and the Israelite religion going monotheistic

- Baalshamin, "Lord of the Heavens" (c.f. Armenian Barsamin)
- El (god), original sky god and sky father of the Israelites (and other Semitic tribes) before Yahweh
- Yahweh, deity whose origin is unclear, but rose to prominence among the Israelites, was conflated with El, and became the sole god among them; the Bible heavily associates him with the sky

Speakers of Uralic languages

Finnic

- Ilmari, godlike smith-hero and creator of the sky.
- Ilmatar, virgin spirit of the air^[4]
- Ukko, supreme god of sky, weather, thunder, crops (harvest) and other natural things.^[5]
- Perkele, associated with Ukko by some researchers. A name for Devil in Finnish.^{[6][7]}
- Taara, Oeselian chief god of thunder and the sky

Mari

- Kugu Jumo, chief god of the sky, creator of the world, associated with a duck
- Tölze, god of the moon
- Piambar, daughter of the sky
- Shudyr-Shamich, god of the stars
- Uzhara, god of the dawn

Mordvin

- Värde-Škaj, Mokshan supreme god of the sky
- Niškepaz, Erzyan supreme god of the sky
- Kovava, Mokshan goddess of the moon

Permian

- Inmar, Udmurt god of the heavens
- Jenmar, Komi sky and chief god, creator of the world, associated with the moose

Sami

- Horagalles, Sami god of the sky, thunder and lightning, the rainbow, weather, oceans, lakes, human life, health and well-being.^[8]
- Mano, god of the moon

Samoyedic

- Num, god of the sky

Ugric

- Num-Toorum-Aś, Ob-Ugric supreme god and ruler of the kingdom of the sky in the north

Chinese

- Yu Huang Dadi-Jade Emperor (center)
- Ziwei Dadi-polestar emperor (north)
- Changsheng Dadi-longevity emperor (south)
- Qinghua Dadi-azure-illustrious emperor (east)
- Taiji Tianhuang Dadi-ultimate heaven emperor (west)
- Chang'e, moon goddess who lives with the moon rabbit
- Shang Di, the celestial emperor
- Xihe (deity), sun goddess
- Zhinü, weaver of the clouds and possible dawn goddess

Twenty Four Sky Emperors (Tiandi 天帝)

- Six Tiandi of the North
 - 1. Bìfàn Xuánwú Tiandi
 - 2. Bìkōng Zhēnjì Tiandi
 - 3. Bìluó Yuánshǐ Tiandi
 - 4. Bìgě Chéngkāi Tiandi
 - 5. Bìyàn Zhūjǐng Tiandi
 - 6. Bìhóng Xūkuàng Tiandi
- Six Tiandi of the South
 - 7. Bìzhēn Dòngyáng Tiandi
 - 8. Bìyáo Jiàngōng Tiandi
 - 9. Bìxiá Míngsù Tiandi
 - 10. Bìwú Yàodòng Tiandi
 - 11. Bìyùn Shǐtú Tiandi
 - 12. Bìhào Zhēngxū Tiandi
- Six Tiandi of the West
 - 13. Bìshén Zhàozhì Tiandi
 - 14. Bìchōng Zǐyào Tiandi
 - 15. Bìgě Fànkōng Tiandi
 - 16. Bìdòng Xiáyáng Tiandi
 - 17. Bìhuá Kāilì Tiandi
 - 18. Bìfàn Míngyáo Tiandi
- Six Tiandi of the North
 - 19. Bìguāng Hánhua Tiandi
 - 20. Bìyè Zhùyán Tiandi
 - 21. Bìdān Huáqì Tiandi
 - 22. Bìkuò Címíng Tiandi

- 23. Bìlà Gēyīn Tiandi
- 24. Bìxū Níngyáng Tiandi

Twenty Eight Sky Emperors (Tiandi 天帝)

- Seven Tiandi of the East
 - 1. Tàimíng Hùzhēn Tiandi
 - 2. Juéfàn Tàilíng Tiandi
 - 3. Húyuè Cuìxiù Tiandi
 - 4. Zǐdān Míngchǔ Tiandi
 - 5. Dòngxiá Yùzhēn Tiandi
 - 6. Kōngxuán Lìshǔ Tiandi
 - 7. Qiáotōng Zhūpǔ Tiandi
- Seven Tiandi of the South
 - 8. Yányú Zhēngshǐ Tiandi
 - 9. Jīngwéi Xiāomíng Tiandi
 - 10. Qìngfú Zīshàn Tiandi
 - 11. Suíwén Xīdù Tiandi
 - 12. Chángjī Lèwán Tiandi
 - 13. Qíhuá Bùróng Tiandi
 - 14. Gāolíng Dàiwú Tiandi
- Seven Tiandi of the West
 - 15. Zhōuyú Píngwú Tiandi
 - 16. Jǐngyán Tàizhēn Tiandi
 - 17. Lǜjǐng Shǔchén Tiandi
 - 18. Niúluó Pǔshì Tiandi
 - 19. Dìngliáng Huìzōng Tiandi
 - 20. Zhàolíng Sūjì Tiandi
 - 21. Jiǔwēi Dònghuáng Tiandi
- Seven Tiandi of the North
 - 22. Dìshū Guāngjìng Tiandi
 - 23. Zǐyí Jìhuā Tiandi
 - 24. Zhìdìng Yǔnlǐ Tiandi
 - 25. Guāngfàn Jiùzhì Tiandi
 - 26. Hǔ□ Zhēngbù Tiandi
 - 27. Bàyān Wúyuán Tiandi
 - 28. Dàomíng Húnxìng Tiandi

Thirty Two Sky Emperors (Tiandi 天帝)

- Eight Tiandi of the East
 - 1. Tàihuáng Huángzēng Tiandi
 - 2. Tàimíng Yùwán Tiandi

- 3. Qīngmíng Hétóng Tiandi
- 4. Xuántāi Píngyù Tiandi
- 5. Yuánmíng Wénjǔ Tiandi
- 6. Qīyào Móyí Tiandi
- 7. Xūwú Yuèhéng Tiandi
- 8. Tàijí Méngyì Tiandi
- Eight Tiandi of the South
 - 9. Chìmíng Héyáng Tiandi
 - 10. Xuánmíng Gōnghuá Tiandi
 - 11. Yàomíng Zōngpiāo Tiandi
 - 12. Zhúlà Huángjiā Tiandi
 - 13. Xūmíng Tángyào Tiandi
 - 14. Guànmíng Duānjìng Tiandi
 - 15. Xuánmíng Gōngqìng Tiandi
 - 16. Tàihuàn Jíyáo Tiandi
- Eight Tiandi of the West
 - 17. Yuánzǎi Kǒngshēng Tiandi
 - 18. Tàiān Huángyá Tiandi
 - 19. Xiǎndìng Jífēng Tiandi
 - 20. Shǐhuáng Xiàománg Tiandi
 - 21. Tàihuáng Wēngchóng Tiandi
 - 22. Wúsī Jiāngyóu Tiandi
 - 23. Shǎngshé Ruǎnlè Tiandi
 - 24. Wújí Tánshì Tiandi
- Eight Tiandi of the North
 - 25. Hàotíng Xiāodù Tiandi
 - 26. Yuāntōng Yuándòng Tiandi
 - 27. Hàrchǒng Miàochéng Tiandi
 - 28. Xiùlè Jīnshǎng Tiandi
 - 29. Wúshàng Chángróng Tiandi
 - 30. Yùlóng Téngshèng Tiandi
 - 31. Lóngbiàn Fàndù Tiandi
 - 32. Píngyù Jiǎyì Tiandi

Sixty Four Sky Emperors (Tiandi 天帝)

- Sixteen Tiandi of the East
 - 1. Wǎnkōng Míngfàn Tiandi
 - 2. Zǐyuán Bàwú Tiandi
 - 3. Yānjǐng Yùxū Tiandi
 - 4. Chōngzhēng Dòngjí Tiandi
 - 5. Míngbiàn Yuánhuáng Tiandi
 - 6. Lǐchóng Yuānxū Tiandi

- 7. Jiàozhēn Quánzhòng Tiandi
- 8. Qīngwēi Huángyǔ Tiandi
- 9. Jiùmíng wàngshì Tiandi
- 10. Yuèfǔ Wènsí Tiandi
- 11. Qǐlíng Zhāopǔ Tiandi
- 12. Xuánxū Guāngfàn Tiandi
- 13. Shǎngjí Sìzhǒng Tiandi
- 14. Yìhuā Zhēngzhèn Tiandi
- 15. Gūshì Bāfàn Tiandi
- 16. Jiǔyán Yùdìng Tiandi
- Sixteen Tiandi of the South
 - 17. Dānmó Yìhuā Tiandi
 - 18. Dòujiàn Xūyú Tiandi
 - 19. Dìguāng Wújì Tiandi
 - 20. Zhūlíng Yàoguāng Tiandi
 - 21. Zǐjǐng Duànbái Tiandi
 - 22. Jiàngxiān Táiyuán Tiandi
 - 23. Shuǎngzhì Xièshēn Tiandi
 - 24. Yùjiāng Sīchán Tiandi
 - 25. Gūhóu Lìzhēn Tiandi
 - 26. Gǔxuán Dàoyòng Tiandi
 - 27. Lǐbù Míngwēi Tiandi
 - 28. Shénlú Chāngyìng Tiandi
 - 29. Dùzhēng Kèzōng Tiandi
 - 30. Dàhuǒ Chìyī Tiandi
 - 31. Qīngdì Dòngyáo Tiandi
 - 32. Xuánchéng Bǎihuā Tiandi
- Sixteen Tiandi of the West
 - 33. Jīnlí Guāngqǐ Tiandi
 - 34. Jíhuáng Xuányùn Tiandi
 - 35. Zhōuyán Jìngpíng Tiandi
 - 36. Bǎosòng Róngzī Tiandi
 - 37. Qìngzhēn Měiyuán Tiandi
 - 38. Zhàiwú Shénsì Tiandi
 - 39. Gāojiàng Zhìhuá Tiandi
 - 40. Dàoqī Yánjì Tiandi
 - 41. Tónglì Dàochú Tiandi
 - 42. Dǐngshén Huàwēi Tiandi
 - 43. Tàiān Shùnjí Tiandi
 - 44. Qióngxī Yàoxiān Tiandi
 - 45. Zǐdū Yuèguǎng Tiandi
 - 46. Cuīkāng Jiéshí Tiandi
 - 47. Jìngbì Lànmáng Tiandi
 - 48. Pǔhǎi Dòngjī Tiandi

- Sixteen Tiandi of the North
 - 49. Yúsì Tǒngzhēn Tiandi
 - 50. Hǔjiā Pīfāng Tiandi
 - 51. Qiúyuān Làyú Tiandi
 - 52. Jīnbái Zhēngjì Tiandi
 - 53. Huánglì Kǒngxiū Tiandi
 - 54. Yáoshū Jīnglíng Tiandi
 - 55. Shényín Xiāodū Tiandi
 - 56. Qìngzhāo Yuèfú Tiandi
 - 57. Chēnmíng Chúkǔ Tiandi
 - 58. Fēngxìn Kǎofú Tiandi
 - 59. Zhèngrù Bàobù Tiandi
 - 60. Gěnglěi Lìquán Tiandi
 - 61. Guǐchǔ Shǐlè Tiandi
 - 62. Língfù Hǎilún Tiandi
 - 63. Shǎngjí Xiāotán Tiandi
 - 64. Bìcháng Dòngyuán Tiandi

Burmese

- Akathaso, the spirits of the sky

Meitei/Sanamahism

- Sidaba Mapu, the sky god and the Supreme Deity
- Soraren, father of the water goddess Irai Leima who taught humans to build a civilisation
- Sajik (Arietis)
- Thaba (Musca)
- Khongjom Nubi (Pleiades)
- Apaknga (Lunar mansions)
- Sachung Telheiba (A Orionis)
- Likla Saphaba (Orion)
- Chingcharoibi (G Geminorum)
- Chungshennubi (Cancer)

Korean

- Hwanin, sky god
- Hwanung, son of Hwanin

The Americas

Lakota

- Anpao wichapi, the Morning Star spirit, bringer of knowledge and new beginnings
- Han, the spirit of night, representative of ignorance
- Hanbli Gleska, the Spotted Eagle spirit, usually regarded as Wakan Thanka
- Hanwi, the moon spirit of knowledge, feminine power, sometimes considered to be the wife of Wi
- Mahgpia Oyate, the Cloud People, also known as the Wichapi Oyate (Star People)
- Wohpe, the spirit of meteors or falling stars (often confused with Fallen Star), also the spirit of beauty, love, wishes, dreams, and prophecy
- Wakinyan, thunder spirit usually taking the form of a bird
- Wi, the sun spirit responsible for bringing light and wisdom to the Lakota oyate
- Wichapi oyate, the Star People, each having respective powers however they usually represent knowledge to some degree
- Wichapi Hinhpayá, the Fallen Star, the son of Wichapi owánžila and Tapun Sa Win
- Wichapi owánžila, the Resting Star or Polaris, the widower of Tapun Sa Win (Red Cheeked Woman)

Incan

- Virococha, sky god

Inuit

- Anguta, sky father and psychopomp
- Ataksak, goddess of the sky
- Negafook, god of weather systems
- Torngarsuk, god of the sky

Iroquoian

- Atahensic, Iroquois sky goddess who fell to Earth at the time of creation

Mayan

- Cabaguil, god of the sky
- Hunab Ku, sky father
- Tzacol, sky god and creator deity

Puebloans

- Ápoyan Ta'chu, sky father in Zuni mythology

Taíno mythology

- Yaya, supreme god in Taíno mythology

Speakers of Uto-Aztecan languages

- Citlalincue, goddess of the Milky Way
- Cipactonal, god of the daytime
- Oxomoco, goddess of nighttime
- Centzonmimixcoa, 400 gods of the northern stars
- Centzonhuitznahua, 400 gods of the southern stars
- Coyolxauhqui, goddess of the moon
- Meztli, goddess of the moon
- Tonatiuh, god of the sun
- Tianquiztli, star goddesses (see the Pleiades)
- Citlaltonac, god of male stars
- Citlalmina, goddess of female stars
- Citlaxonecuilli, goddess of Ursa Major
- Eototo, Hopi head kachina and sky father

Voodoo

- Badessy, Vodou loa associated with the sky

Sub-Saharan Africa

- Mulungu, Nyamwezi creator and sky god
- Nyame, Akan supreme deity, god of the sky
- Olorun, Yoruba supreme deity, god of the sky and heaven
- Shango, Yoruba sky father and thunder god
- Umvelinqangi, Zulu sky god
- Xamaba, creator and sky god of the Heikum of South Africa
- Denka, Dinka god of sky, rain and fertility
- Khonvoun, supreme creator god and sky father of Mbuti Pygmies
- Utixo, Khoikhoi sky god

Australian

- Altjira, Arrernte creator and sky god
- Baiaame, southeast Australian creator and sky god
- Bila (sun), cannibalistic sun goddess
- Binbeal, god of rainbows
- Bunjil, Kulin creator and sky god
- Daramulum, one-legged emu sky god
- Numakulla, a pair of creator and sky gods
- Rainbow Serpent, creator god in many Aboriginal cultures associated with water, rain, and rainbows, though it also has a chthonic connection

Filipino

- Ilanit: a group of Isnag sky dwellers who are helpful harvest spirits^[9]

Malagasy

- Zanahary, sky deity of Madagascar

Māori

- Ao, god of light and the sky
- Ranginui, sky father
- Tāwhaki Being of thunder and lightning
- Tāwhirimātea God of weather, storms, thunder and lightning
- Tane-rore, personification of shimmering air
- Te Uira Personification of lightning
- Whaitiri Female Personification of Thunder
- Uenuku, god of rainbows

Other Pacific Islands

- Abeguwo, Melanesian sky goddess
- Amai-te-rangi, sky demon of Mangaia
- Atua I Kafika, supreme sky god of Polynesia
- Ira, Polynesian sky goddess
- Laufakana'a, Tongan creator god and sky father
- Tangaloa, Tongan sky god

Vietnamese

- Trời, sky god in Vietnamese indigenous religion

Hurrian

- Hepit, goddess of the sky
- Teshub, god of the sky and storms

Japanese

- Amaterasu, goddess of the sun and the universe, ancestor of the emperors of Japan, and the most important deity in Shintoism
- Amenominakanushi, heavenly ancestral god
- Izanagi, creator of Japan and sky father
- Izanami, creator goddess of Japan with her husband; starts off as a sky goddess, but after she dies becomes a death/underworld/chthonic goddess
- Marici, Buddhist goddess of the heavens
- Tsukuyomi, god of the moon and brother of Amaterasu

Thai

- Phaya Thaen (Thai: พญาแถน,) the sky personified with a rank equivalent to marquess (Thai Phraya,) the protagonist in a Rocket Festival

Turkish and Mongolian

- Tengri, god of the sky
- Bai-Ulgan
- Kayra

Etruscan

- Ani, primordial god of the sky identified with the Greek Uranus and Roman Caelus
- Tinia, god of the sky

Sumerian

- Anshar, god of the sky
- Anu, king of the gods, associated with the sky, heaven, and constellations
- Enlil, god of breath, air, and wind
- Utu, god of the sun

See also

- List of light deities
- List of lunar deities
- List of night deities
- List of solar deities
- Nature worship
- Sky father
- Water deity
- Wind deity

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